



SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**South Coast AQMD launches hourly forecasting to help residents better plan daily outdoor activities**

*Vital for families, fitness instructors and elderly during summer smog season*

**DIAMOND BAR**— The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) today announced the launch of its new hourly air forecast that has the ability to predict air quality levels, hour-by-hour for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone (smog) for up to two consecutive days.

“Whether you are planning a hike after work, an outdoor exercise class, or making plans to take your children to the playground, this hourly air quality information can greatly impact public health,” said Wayne Nastri, South Coast AQMD’s Executive Officer. “We encourage all residents to download our award-winning app or visit our website to better plan their activities during the times of day when air quality is predicted to be the cleanest.”

During the summer smog season, hot and stagnant days can increase the formation of ground-level ozone—known as smog—which can frequently lead to unhealthy air quality. South Coast AQMD recommends that residents stay abreast of air quality levels in their area and adjust outdoor activities accordingly.

Until now, South Coast AQMD had issued one daily forecast summarizing air quality conditions for 45 geographical areas in the region for the entire day. However, with improved modeling techniques developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), South Coast AQMD can now issue hourly air quality forecasts for the next one to two days.

"NOAA's air quality model predictions for the nation provide the foundation for essential services like these, which deliver critically important air quality forecasts to residents in southern California," said Ivanka Stajner, Deputy Director, NOAA's Environmental Modeling Center.

Predicted air quality levels are reported as an Air Quality Index (AQI). A higher AQI indicates higher levels of air pollutants, with potentially greater health concerns. The hourly forecast can now show how levels are expected to change throughout the day. If

the AQI predicts unhealthy levels, the public can choose to reschedule outdoor activities to the time or day predicted to be the healthiest.

This is a vital tool for all residents in the South Coast Air Basin, especially doctors, patients, school personnel, parents, fitness instructors and sports coaches that work with sensitive groups such as children, the elderly or those with respiratory issues such as asthma.

The hourly air quality forecasts can be found:

- On our website: [www.aqmd.gov/forecast](http://www.aqmd.gov/forecast); or
- Via our smartphone app (for iOS and Android);

## Air Quality Index Quick Guide

<b>Good</b> AQI: 0-50	Air quality is Good. Outdoor activity is advised for everyone.
<b>Moderate</b> AQI: 51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, there could be a moderate health concern for people with severe respiratory reactions to smog.
<b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b> AQI: 101-150	Children and adults over the age of 65, or people with respiratory issues such as asthma may experience health effects and should minimize outdoor activities.
<b>Unhealthy</b> AQI: 151-200	The public may begin to experience health effects and should minimize outdoor activities. Children and adults over the age of 65, or people with respiratory issues such as asthma may experience more serious health effects and should avoid outdoor activities.
<b>Very Unhealthy</b> AQI: 201-300	Everyone may experience health effects. Children and adults over the age of 65, or people with respiratory issues should avoid all outdoor physical activity. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor activity.
<b>Hazardous</b> AQI: 300+	Emergency health warning triggered. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

While the hourly forecast is useful for planning future activities, information can change, so South Coast AQMD recommends that the public also check real-time air quality through our app or by visiting: [www.aqmd.gov/aqimap](http://www.aqmd.gov/aqimap).

South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

For news, air quality alerts, event updates and more, please visit [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov), download our award-winning app, or follow @SouthCoastAQMD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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